## JEWISH OBSERVER AND MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

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#### COMMENT

#### LIARS AND FORGERS

Not only ladies can "protest too much." The sudden, anxious reappearance of the former Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin, at a press conference in Beirut last Saturday, was also a rather curious affair. Haj Amin had called the press together to "deny categorically" that he had had any connection with the persecution of the Jews in Germany during the second World War. And, he added, he did not know Eichmann and had at no time had dealings with him.

It was this suspected link, it became clear, which was the occasion for the public disavowal. There had been some suggestion, the evidently worried Mufti told the pressmen, that he was a war criminal by association. He had learned that the Israelis were planning to kidnap him so that he should stand trial together with Eichmann. But, he pleaded that he was innocent of any kind of anti-Jewish activity during the war.

\* \* \*

We have been looking again at the Mufti's war-time dossier, and it hardly bears out his energetic denials. On the contrary, there appears to be some very strong prima facie evidence which suggests that he was extremely active in assisting Eichmann in carrying through the Final Solution of the Jewish question. From Haj Amin's first meeting with Hitler in Berlin on November 6, 1941, to the final German collapse, the Mufti was not only wholly at the service of the Germans but urged them on to be firmer and tougher with the Jews—not just the Zionists.

His own captured diary, with its record of the meeting with the Fuehrer, shows his full accord with Hitler's programme which, at that time, Hitler asked the Mufti "to keep secret." It was his intention, Hitler told the Mufti, to keep up the fight until "the complete destruction of the Judeo-Bolshevik rule has been accomplished." Nor was Haj Amin left in any doubt about the meaning of this phrase. He was provided with an office and a staff. He started to broadcast for the Germans from Berlin, Bari, Tokyo and Athens. He toured not only Germany, but also Italy and the Balkans to encourage Moslems to fight for the Germans and against the Jews. The dossier contains photographs of the Mufti with Hitler, with Himmler, with Goebbels, and inspecting special Moslem troops whom he greeted with the Hitler salute.

But most compromising of all for the Mufti is the captured correspondence which he addressed to Himmler and to the respective offices dealing with the Jewish question in Italy, Rumania and Bulgaria, and especially in Hungary (Eichmann?). In every case, Haj Amin in-

tervened to prevent arrangements which had been made for Jews to emigrate. In every case, he insisted that none of the Jews should be permitted to leave the country, and his letter to the Hungarian Foreign Minister at the time of the Kastner-Eichmann negotiations shows clearly that the Mufti knew what was afoot and made every effort to ensure that none of the Hungarian Jews should escape their fate at Auschwitz.

\* \* \*

It is a sordid and depressing story, and it is Haj Amin who has now reopened it with his untruthful denials. But since he has linked his own position with that of the Palestinian refugees and of the Arab world generally, it does now become a moral issue for the Arab leaders to make clear where they stand, and especially whether they are willing to let Haj Amin-with his record-act as their spokesman. The issue is of some importance, for the former Mufti is not the only person involved. There is considerable suspicion that more than one of Eichmann's former aides has found refuge and work in the propaganda offices of the Cairo Government and of the Arab League. And, so long as they remain there, what are the Israelis-and the democratic world-to make of the declarations about Palestine which now come with increasing frequency from these quarters. Are these President Nasser's declarations, or are they voices from Hitler's and Himmler's graves?

This is something which liberal opinion in the Arab world will have to clear up soon, if it wants to avoid being tarred with the Eichmann brush. And they could not do better than to make a beginning with the former Mufti.

\* \* \*

And while we are on the subject of the Mufti's lies, we must draw attention to another kind of forgery which is now being perpetrated in the Middle East. Last Saturday (at 4.30 p.m. g.m.t.). Moscow radio broadcast a report in Arabic which quoted from an alleged letter written by the German envoy in Cairo to the Federal German Foreign Minister. This was said to contain the following passage:

"We must emphasise that every loan to the Arabs must be matched by even bigger aid to Israel. The consignments of Israeli arms are important to us and the military strength of Israel will have an important bearing on our forthcoming battles in the Middle East. We must not forget that Israel is the only bastion of the West in this region."

Is Moscow trying to carry on the work that the Mufti had to leave off? What kind of peacemaking is this? Perhaps Mr. Kruschev will add his explanations when the Soviet delegate comes to speak on the Arab refugee debate at the resumed meeting of the U.N. Assembly.

#### JEWISH OBSERVER AND MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

EDITOR: JON KIMCHE

EDITORIAL: 100 Salisbury Sq. House, Salisbury Square, London, E.C.4 FLEET STREET 3349

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#### MIDDLE EAST

#### FINAL NOTICE SERVED ON SYRIA NASSER ADMITS TO "STATE OF ANARCHY"

from Robert Gee, our special Middle East correspondent

It has taken President Nasser two weeks to do it, but at last his point is beginning to sink in: come what may, Syria is to be retained as an integral part of the United Arab Republic-and the Syrians had better get used to the idea.

In putting over this point, and in explaining the reasons for the introduction of currency control and the weekend announcement of the Arabisation (or nationalisation) of all banks, foreign and local, in the Northern Region, the President admitted what his aides here have been denying for months, that the entire Syrian economy was in a state of anarchy.

The decree for the Arabisation of banks was issued on Friday. It orders that the Syrian Treasury take a 35 per cent interest in the capital of every bank, that all shares shall be owned by persons of U.A.R. nationality and that members of boards of directors and officials responsible for administration shall be U.A.R. nationals.

Controllers put in: However, the 100 per cent U.A.R. share-holding requirement will be waived for those banks which are prepared to give a 25 per cent share interest to nationals of other Arab countries. Bank managements, which include a number of British and French concerns, have been given twelve months to put these arrangements into operation.

To make sure that they do not use the interim period to dissipate their assets or otherwise deprive the government of the fruits of the nationalisation order, controllers and supervisors have already been appointed to each of the banks. Their decisions on matters of policy will be final.

Addressing a gathering of peasants and officials assembled to witness the handing out of land deeds in the El Zahra cinema here last Friday night, Nasser revealed that on the day he signed the foreign currency control decree, Syria's reserves of hard currency were the equivalent of £44 million, of which £33 million were foreign loans.

"Very serious situation": This meant that the real balance was £500,000. Against this there were import applications outstanding for about £8½ million.



WITH NASSER IN DAMASCUS, VICE-PRESIDENT AMER AND SYRIAN GOVERNOR SERRAJ Plenty of piastres-but not enough roubles

In Nasser's words—"a very serious situation."

The government, he stated, had decided to follow a policy of controlled economy, with the State participating in all spheres of work. Private capital could participate, so long as it did not object to the principles of the Republic in a controlled economy. "If we have to build this Republic, we must guide the economy and should use every piastre we earn from our work for development."

Some people, he noted, had argued that there was room in the free market for those wanting to buy hard currencies. But experience had shown that, as the currencies in the free market went up, there was an increase in commodity prices which affected the ordinary citizen.

Gold still in Syria: "We had to act to establish a sound system. We had to act to end this state of anarchy they called free economy." Today, he claimed, hard currency reserves in the Syrian Region totalled £8 million. This, he agreed, was a small amount—but in times of trouble each Region would help the other.

Referring to rumours that Egypt had taken away Syria's gold reserve, the President said this was untrue. "We did not use any part of this reserve. It is here in the Central Bank." The Egyptian Region, he stated, has its own gold reserve of £65 million, so there was nothing to worry about.

What then had been the cause of Syria's troubles, apart from the "exploi-

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CO-EXISTENCE—OR DIVERSIONARY MANOEUVRE?

Bolshoi ballet dancer Maya Plisetkaya and Cairo belly dancer Nagwa Fouad—a lesson on keeping in step

ters" and "speculators." During the past three years, Nasser explained, "we faced here in the Northern Region drought and aridity. It was a bad season for our exports." But the Southern Region had come to the rescue.

A confession: In the first year of union it paid £10 million into the Syrian budget and gave a similar amount in foreign currency during the second year. It also provided more than £8 million in hard currency to help the Syrians meet their needs. "I felt at one time," Nasser confessed, "that this arrangement was somewhat unjust because the free economy or, better, the economic anarchy, which prevailed in the Northern Region was allowing hard currency to find its way abroad."

Now, under the new regulations, "both Regions can face all eventualities and there should be no fears here in Damascus of any shortage of hard currency because Cairo will meet the shortage in Damascus and Damascus will help Cairo. This is the meaning of one Republic and the strong basis of our union."

One of the main reasons for the nationalisation of the banks, he told his audience, was that direction came from outside of the country. He instanced the Syrian-Lebanon Bank. "It is neither Syrian nor Lebanese. It is 100 per cent French and takes its orders from Paris. We are a good people, so we let Paris control us and give us a signboard and tell us this is the Syria-Lebanon Bank. Yet it has no relationship whatever with

Syria or Lebanon.

"Its director is French and he takes orders from de Gaulle. So we cannot do anything to build our country." This situation could not be allowed to continue. "We had to organise the banking machinery for the interest of the national economy and place it in honest national hands which would steer it in accordance with the objectives of the people and our policy of development and production."

No personal interest: He pledged that the banking service would be made a sound one, for the benefit of individual savers. He had no personal interest, he declared. "We do not own anything. Thank God I do not own anything in this Republic, not in the banks, in agriculture, in industry, in trade or in anything else. I believe that all the Ministers are similarly placed, for they are the Ministers of the people and each one of them works for the people."

For the merchants and those opposed to his regulations he had a word of harsh warning. "We will not allow any person, under any circumstances, to exploit the people of this Republic. This means that we will give the merchant his rights, but we the people have the right not to be exploited." He knew of merchants in Damascus, he said, who, during the last four or five months, had imported enough stocks to last for three years. There were now enough goods in the country to "last for a long time."

The reaction of the large merchant community of Damascus and of other

Syrian cities to the currency control regulations has, so far, been one of passive hostility. The order that foreign currency holdings abroad must be declared within five days was ignored. The authorities were forced, by the lack of response, to extend the date by a fortnight. It is unlikely that the response then will have been any better.

Crucial fortnight: The question is what Nasser will do then. If he orders the arrest of "offenders" he is going to cram the jails with members of some of Syria's leading families. If he takes no further action he will have conceded defeat on perhaps the major issue of conflict with Syrian opinion (apart that is, from the actual act of union). His prestige would suffer a tremendous blow, not only here but also in the Southern Region.

The next fortnight promises to be the most crucial in the uneasy years that have numbered the life of the U.A.R.

## PALESTINE: "WE SHALL RETURN WITH NASSER"

It was a different, more cocksure Nasser who appeared at the weekend before a vast audience of Palestinian refugees on the balcony of the Damascus Presidential Palace.

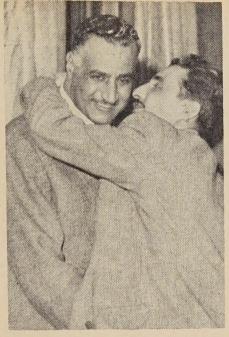
While screaming youths waved banners bearing such slogans as "We shall return," Nasser's Syrian governor, Abdel Hamid Serraj, introduced the President with the pledge that: "We shall return with the leadership of Gamal Abdel Nasser to that dear land for which our fathers and forefathers died, the land we will never forget because it lives in us and keeps alive the hope in us."

Nasser, warming to the enthusiasm of the crowd, told them: "Today, we say that the Palestine people must return to its homeland and that it must restore its rights."

Not just a slogan: This opinion, he agreed, might seem to be old stuff, "but when we say so we do not merely repeat slogans, but we mean what we say. The whole Arab people everywhere says that the people of Palestine must return to Palestine and must restore its rights.

"Hence we have to work with full energy so as to realise this great goal, the goal of you, the people of Palestine, and our goal, we the Arab people, who saw in the creation of Israel a menace threatening its existence as well as its nationalism. We have to work and plan to avoid facing a disaster similar to that of 1948."

Addressing the crowd earlier, under Nasser's benevolent smile, Dr. Osama el Naguib, chairman of the Cairo-organised Palestinian National Union, had expressed the hope that the National Union would



NASSER AND JUMBLATT Time for a reshuffle?

"embrace the Gaza sector and the whole of the Republic, so we can form the Palestinian Army under your banner, the banner of Arab nationalism."

Ex-Mufti chips in: The present gathering, he declared, "is the vanguard of the great army of Palestine, which is part of the army of the U.A.R. and the army of the Arabs which will regain the usurped homeland."

It seemed almost churlish of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem, from the fastness of his Arab Higher Committee in Beirut, to re-issue his call for some "practical measures," including the denial of passage to Israeli ships through the Gulf of Akaba.

#### CHRISTIAN RESTRAINT IN LEBANON

MOSLEMS TAKE THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

from a special correspondent

Beirut:

Only forbearance on the part of the Maronite Christian community has so far preserved the basic internal tranquility of the Lebanon. In the past week, we have seen delegation after delegation of prominent Moslem Lebanese commuting to Damascus to present their respects and pledges of support to President Nasser.

But the crisis sparked by Nasser's blast against the wholly Maronite Phalange Party remains vividly present. We were

given a hint of the dangerous possibilities on Sunday morning when a long column of vehicles bound for Damascus carrying supporters of the U.A.R. President was ambushed in the village of Kahhalah, in the Jebel Lubnan area.

The authorities, on the orders of Prime Minister Saeb Salem, placed a strict censorship on reports of the incident, but it is known that several people were injured. Nineteen villagers have so far been arrested. One curious fact to have emerged from this attack is that there is a heavy security guard on the road leading from Beirut to Damascus.

Big sister: Prime Minister Salem himself was a member of one of the delegations which called on Nasser. He went to the Syrian capital after issuing a statement in which he pointed out that "the U.A.R. is the biggest of our sister states. We should admit this and the fact that Gamal Abdel Nasser has done much for the Arab nation. Any deviation from this fact will endanger our national unity. It is not in the interests of anybody to continue these attacks in future, and nobody will be permitted to do so."

He put this warning in even stronger form when he met with Pierre Gemayel, Finance Minister and leader of the Phalange. But Gemayel was equally firm. He had no interest in being hostile to the U.A.R., he said, "but it must be understood that friendship is one thing and slavery another."

What the crisis has done is to confirm Kamil Jumblatt, the Minister of Education and leader of the Socialist Progressive Party, as the foremost supporter of Nasser in Lebanon. Nasser, he said, had spoken "like a real Lebanese leader" when he had attacked the Phalangist attempts to "destroy the Lebanese homeland and build on its ruins a sectarian national home." There was a profound general feeling, he commented, that the

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"YOU HAVE REVIVED THEIR HOPES"
Lebanese Anschluss enthusiasts in Damascus

time was near for a Cabinet reshuffle.

Karami's insult: On Tuesday, someone so far unidentified had a lone shot at "reshuffling." Just fifteen seconds before a burning fuse ignited 105 sticks of dynamite in a petrol station close by the Prime Minister's home, the alarm was given and an explosion averted.

But, with the way matters are developing, a bigger, national explosion seems impossible to escape. Thousands upon thousands of Lebanese Moslems, including the Deputy Premier and other Cabinet Ministers have taken the road to Damascus to praise and glorify Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Day after day, from the balcony of the Presidential Palace in the Syrian capital, the U.A.R. President has addressed massive gatherings of cheering Lebanese. One of his distinguished visitors this week was former Premier Rashid Karami, an activist Moslem leader. In a curious address laudatory of the President, he referred to "the Lebanon, which believes in the love of Christ," a backhanded gesture to this country's Christians who are certainly not going to love him for it.

A miracle: Nasser, in his replies to this and similar speeches of greeting, showed himself a little more reticent than last week when he made direct attacks upon Christian leaders in Lebanon. But his aide, Syrian governor Serraj, showed no such finer feelings. He sent the cheering Lebanese Moslems happily on their way home with the suggestion that Nasser was the "incarnation of their aspirations." Turning to Nasser on one occasion, he declared: "You have revived their hopes."

There is no avoiding the implication that these "hopes" are tied to an end to Lebanon's "neutralism" in Arab affairs. Things are going too far and too fast for a return to the easy relationship between

Moslem and Christian. It might cause King Hussein to hesitate somewhat before he, too, embarks on his intended "pilgrimage" to settle his outstanding differences with Nasser.

## BARBOUR NAMED FOR TEL AVIV

President Kennedy has selected one of the State Department's top career diplomats as his Ambassador to Israel. He is 52-year-old Walworth Barbour, Minister at the U.S. Embassy in London and deputy chief of mission here since 1955.

Barbour will be going back to an area he knows well—he served in Athens, Baghdad, Sofia and Cairo after joining the Foreign Service from Harvard in 1930. At the end of the war he was made assistant head of the Division of South European Affairs, becoming Counsellor at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in 1949.

His Moscow experience led to his appointment as Director of the Department of East European Affairs in 1951 and three years later he was promoted to Deputy Assistant Secretary.

Barbour, a quiet-talking bachelor with a reputation for hard work (he is often at his desk throughout the weekend), has won the respect and affection of British colleagues who admire his keen mind and perceptive abilities. They also talk highly of his skill as a bridgeplayer. Another of his favourite hobbies, one he will be able to pursue in Israel, is golf. His handicap promises to raise a few eyebrows on the course at Caesarea -but in Jerusalem the most significant aspect of his appointment is seen in his Eastern Europe expertise—an important new aspect in the Middle East relations of Israel, and of the United States.

#### **POLITICS**

## AUGUST ELECTION SEEMS CERTAIN

MR. FEDERMAN ARRIVES ON THE SCENE

from our own correspondents

#### Jerusalem:

It no longer seems a question of whether we are to have elections, but when. That now is the main point of argument between the parties, with Mapai standing on August 29 and most others favouring an earlier date in August.

Elections became a certainty after the Progressives, Mapam and Ahdut Avoda rejected President Ben-Zvi's personal plea that they reconsider their refusal to re-establish the coalition under Mr. Ben-Gurion's leadership. The President based his request on national needs and the apparent reluctance of the parties to embark upon new elections.

His initiative brought him a stern rebuke from Herut which charged that he had exceeded his authority, but this was in turn denied by Justice Minister Pinhas Rosen. Mr. Rosen, as leader of the Progressive Party, was himself under considerable pressure this week from an influential section of his party to drop his objection to serving in a re-constituted Cabinet under Ben-Gurion.

Need for stable government: In an open letter to Rosen, Yekutiel Federman appealed to him "as the only person today perhaps who can enjoy the support and co-operation of at least part of the coalition parties," to "fulfil a historic task and find a way of forming a Government with Mapai that would also be joined by the National Religious Party in its first stage."

Federman, a Youth Aliyah ward who has battled his way up the ladder of success to a position where he is now the country's youngest and probably most powerful industrialist, having an interest in oil, steel and a chain of hotels which include the King David, the Dan and the Accadia, came out strongly in support of the President's bid to avoid elections.

There were a number of urgent international issues facing the State at the present time, he pointed out, and only a stable government could provide the responsible solutions required. "Elections now are not likely to bring about any major changes and the Government that will be formed afterwards cannot be expected to be more capable of coping with these problems than the outgoing Cabinet."

Rosen not impressed: While Mapai was committed to Mr. Ben-Gurion as its candidate (a right of selection which he defended), the other parties appeared to lack both the courage and strength to pull the nation out of the mire, stated Federman. But, he suggested, there were perhaps personalities who possessed the strength to act where the parties had failed—and he pointed to Rosen.

But the Justice Minister was not impressed. Apart from the personal consideration of his clash with Ben-Gurion over the report of the Committee of Seven, he is also deeply involved at this juncture in merger negotiations with the General Zionists. But Federman had also taken this into account.

Declaring himself in favour of a large liberal party, the Haifa industrialist went on to express his conviction "that it cannot be created properly under pressure of time and political opportunism. Such a project requires ample preparations and consideration and our duty both as members of the Progressive Party or of a future Liberal Party is first to do away with the 'Affair,' the only way towards which is the forming of a Government headed by Mr. Ben-Gurion."

Lavon bows out: The orthodox party

leadership, however, had already made up its mind. With the prospects of an amalgamated "Liberal Front," including within it discontented members of Herut, promising new gains at the polls, the temptations were too great. And with Herut itself anxious for a link with the General Zionists, Dr. Rosen and his colleagues could take no chances on being left out in the cold.

Within Mapai itself, one problem was resolved and another one created. Instead of waiting to be excluded from the Mapai list of election candidates, Pinhas Lavon announced that he had refused to allow his name to go forward for nomination. Announcing this, he served notice that any attack on him would be answered "with all available means."

His announcement that he would not run on the Mapai ticket aroused hopes in the headquarters of the other parties that there would now be a separate "Lavon list," strong enough to split Mapai and weaken its election chances.

Still hopeful: Lavon gave no indication that he was amenable to such an idea, but a first move in this direction came from a group of his most ardent supporters headed by Professor Rottenstreich, his leading advocate amongst the intellectuals. At a meeting in Rottenstreich's home, it was decided to embark on a campaign to have the Mapai decision ousting Lavon from the Histadrut

leadership reversed and, instead, to dismiss Ben-Gurion.

Lavon has denied that he has anything to do with this movement, but there are a number of reports of consultations between himself and members of the Rottenstreich group which includes Zvika Kesse, son of Yona Kesse, and Kidan, one of Levi Eshkol's closest aides. So far, it is a fringe group. The greater bulk of the party is standing solidly behind the leadership of Ben-Gurion.

There is little likelihood of Lavon fulfilling Ahdut Avoda hopes and agreeing to appear on their election list. He could not, for his own prestige, appear anywhere but at the top of any other party list and none of the party leaders are fond enough of Lavon to afford him this honour.

## NEW DEVALUATION REPORTS

BONN'S REVALUATION BRINGS FRESH ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

from our Jerusalem correspondent

Financial experts were quick to proclaim the 5 per cent up-valuing of the Deutschmark a "blessing" for Israel. But more sober minds were sceptical about it.

What counts is the long-term effect. With regard to Reparations payments, Israel has now used up everything except

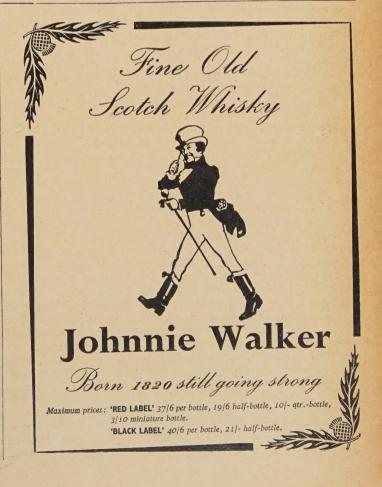


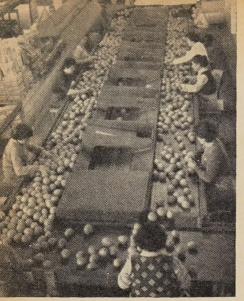
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the equivalent of \$50 million in goods and \$90 million in funds for fuel purchases, mainly oil. Goods deliveries will be unaffected unless German exporters reduce prices in order to meet increased western competition.

More to spend on fuel: The funds set aside for fuel, on the other hand, have automatically become worth five per cent more. Thus, the total gain from the residue of Reparations may amount to a maximum of \$7 million. To this must be added the outstanding amounts of individual compensation which are not yet clear.

But with regard to the long-term balance of payments, the situation is something less than a "blessing." Israel still exports much less to Germany than she imports from there. In the first ten months of last year, the proportion was roughly 1:2½.

Tie-up essential: Although total imports from Germany will inevitably decline after the Reparations Agreement ends (and unless some other long-term credit arrangement takes its place), the level of imports will continue high in view of the fact that a major part of industry is geared to German equipment and the very close trade relations which have been established between the two countries. For these imports Israel will of course have to pay with DM at their new rate or with dollars at the rate of DM 4=\$1.

With regard to exports to Germany, Israel may now—in the wake of revaluation—enjoy a slight edge. Citrus fruit, in particular, which has suffered a downturn in Germany this season (at the same time as the London market pulled up), will bring in more. Exports to Germany have been steadily increasing in recent years, and the additional five per cent to be realised now will make a welcome, though marginal, difference.

A little extra: Taking the long-term view, therefore, Israel's position after the DM revaluation is neither better nor worse than that of other under-developed countries.

The immediate beneficiaries are those Israel residents who hold so-called Pamaz-Taman accounts in DM (the one-third of foreign currency earnings which the Treasury allows citizens to hold in their original currency and to use freely for foreign travel, purchases of foreign goods, etc.).

The other category, of course, are recipients of individual restitution, compensation payments or pensions from Germany. Until now, they have received the privileged rate of I£0.52 per DM (as compared with the official rate of exchange of I£.043). From now on they will receive 54 agorot per Deutschmark.

Demand for devaluation: This will, however, only slightly satisfy the compensation recipients who have been conducting an organised campaign to bring their converted Deutschmarks more into line with their real purchasing power,

DM-earners are only one of the pressure groups that have been demanding, with growing insistence, that the Israel Treasury should devalue the pound and introduce a more realistic rate of exchange. The International Monetary Fund keeps urging Israel with increasing vehemence to end the system of multiple exchange rates.

Such a system exists in effect, although disguised by such terms as export bonuses. The official rate of I£1.80 per dollar (or I£5.04 per Sterling) is practically fictitious, because the only ones who are forced to convert their dollars or sterling at this rate are recipients of donations (including public institutions such as the Jewish Agency, the Keren Kayemet, the Keren Hayesod, and Wizo).

Drastic? The General Manager of the Banking Union, and former Examiner of Banks on the staff of the Bank of Israel, Israel Bar-Yosef, declared in a public lecture last Friday that the devaluation of the Israel pound was "unavoidable," and the sooner the better.

He did not suggest any new rate, but private banking circles in Jerusalem believe that the change will be drastic and not less than 30 per cent. Anything less than that, they think, would fall short of its objective.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS STRIKE

Thirty thousand secondary school pupils in the four senior grades (ages 15-18) were idle this week because their 1,500 teachers in 80 schools throughout

the country had again gone on strike for higher salaries. The strike was 95 per cent effective.

Negotiations had been continuing since last year's disastrous strike which kept the secondary schools closed for six weeks and ended with the Government's agreement to have the proposals of the Guri Committee re-examined by another, whose members were all acceptable to the Secondary Teachers' Association.

However, the proposals of the new (Halperin) Committee were also rejected by the teachers, who found that the proposed increments (e.g. an additional I£7 per month for the least qualified teacher at the beginning of his service rising to I£42.50 per month for M.A. degree holders at the peak of their seniority) were "ridiculous."

Eshkol makes the point: They demanded increases from a minimum I£70 up to a maximum of I£170. Should they fail to get this, they formally resolved to strike.

At a conference on Friday with the Finance Minister and the Deputy Minister of Education, they agreed to much less: I£45 minimum and I£90 maximum. This would cost the Treasury an additional I£9 million a year, only one million more than if it carried out the proposals of the Halperin Committee.

Finance Minister Eshkol said he could accept that, but then went on to touch upon the crux of the problem. As certainly as night follows day, the elementary teachers would insist on similar scale increases which would bring the total additional outlay to I£25 million which he could not afford, Eshkol said.

And there, with some additional arguments the negotiations—and all tuition in secondary schools—ended. The problem, it seems, can never be resolved until and unless this automatic linkage with the elementary teachers is ended.

Matriculation problems: Meanwhile, the Education Ministry is considering two drastic measures to help those who are hardest hit: the twelfth grade secondary school students who were scheduled to sit for matriculation examinations in July. One proposal is to advance the examination date and the other is giving lessons by radio and/or by correspondence.

Senior pupils have, meanwhile, acted on their own and held formal protest rallies in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Their resolutions included one reminding teachers of their "moral responsibility and obligation," stating that the pupils were victims of a struggle to which they were not a party and pleading with the teachers to make their matriculation possible.

### IN THE NEWS

## WHAT KIND OF ZIONIST EXECUTIVE?

THE PRESIDENT OF the World Zionist Organisation is due to return to Jerusalem next weekend. He intends then to sound out the Zionist groupings about the possibilities of forming a new Executive—a task which defeated him at the end of the World Zionist Congress in January. The prospects do not seem to be very much more favourable now than they were two months ago; if anything, the difficulties have been increased by the stringent economic budget of the Jewish Agency. For this showed clearly that the time has come when the Zionist General Council (which meets in Jerusalem next month to elect the new Executive) will have to concentrate on essentials, and what Dr. Goldmann will now have to make clear in his preliminary negotiations is precisely what these essentials are to be.

The central question he will have to decide is whether he wants a working Executive or a shadow Executive. At the Congress, he drew back from the one solution which had offered itself, the socalled small coalition. This would include only Mapai and the Confederation of General Zionists associated with Mrs. Halprin and Dr. Goldstein, together with the Progressive Party in Israel. Dr. Goldmann's opposition to this restricted grouping was that it would leave outside the Executive the two major organisations in the United States and in Latin America, the Mizrachi and the Right-wing Zionist Organisation of America. But what is significant in this argument is the assumption that parties which are not in the Executive will therefore obstruct its work.

Is this really true? Judging from past experience, it seems to me that a tightly knit activist Executive, which works as a team, achieves far more than a broad coalition which has to compromise within itself all the time, and operates not as a whole, but as so many distinct party units. This is the really serious problem which the General Council will have to face next month: can the World Zionist Organisation afford the luxury of a broad coalition with its wasteful expenditure of cash and manpower, without producing a commensurate return? There will be many delegations which will be convinced that this is wrong-and I rather suspect that Dr. Goldmann



DR. GOLDMANN
An opportunity to think again

would share their conclusions. I am sure it would not be a bad thing if we had a period of a small coherent and activist Executive which would work together as a team and not as a collection of prima donnas.

## "TIME" GOES OVERBOARD

THE LAVON AFFAIR through foreign eves looks even more ridiculous than do some of the Israeli versions. The latest one to come to hand is in this week's Time magazine. This is a rehash of a report in the American Jewish Newsletter and must take the prize as the silliest and most gullible story yet published. Some aspects of the Lavon story are admittedly subject to speculation, but a good part can be checked-and ought to be checked by a serious news magazine. This Time has failed to do. There is hardly a single fact in the Time-Jewish Newsletter account that is not naively wrong-and so of course is the conclusion that follows, It claims that Lavon resigned in 1955 because some Israeli newspapermen threatened to publish in the British press that he had signed the order for the spy operation. In fact, there was no need for anyone to threaten. The JEWISH OBSERVER at the time published a full account of the proceedings at the trial, of the accusations and admissions-and of the denials. It also covered in full the circumstances of Lavon's resignation. Today, when so much more information is available, it is hard to understand how *Time* could fall for a story like this.

## JEWISH BOOK WEEK COMES TO LIFE

AS USUAL, I HAVE been looking at the programme of the Jewish Book Week, which opens on Monday evening at the Adolph Tuck Hall, with my by now experienced, jaundiced eye. There is at last an attempt to grapple with the realities of contemporary Jewish literature—on the last evening of the exhibition. Gerda Charles, Meir Gillon and Tosco Fyvel are to discuss the "Golders Green Novel" and there will be readings ( I hope not too many) from these books by "celebrated artists." But what puzzles me is that there should be such a reluctance on the part of the organisers—the Bnai Brith, the Jewish Agency, the World Jewish Congress, the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Mizrachi Women-to dig a little deeper into the peculiarities of Anglo-Jewish literature, and also, for that matter, into the shortcomings of Israeli imaginative writing.

Instead, there is always an air of escapism about these lectures; there is no attempt to relate them to the acute problems of Jewish life today. We get the intriguing inaugural lecture by Maurice Edelman on "Jewish Mystical Books in Translation," the expected Chaim Pearl talk on Jewish religious philosophy, the Hebrew function of the Jewish Agency and Dr. Steinberg's erudite discussion of Dubnow's role in writing Jewish history. If the sum total of the speakers and exhibitions draws an attendance of a thousand or two, it will have done well: but what of it? Isn't it time that this rather pointless procedure was abandoned and, instead, something done to encourage more widespread and more serious study. The Anglo-Jewish community is fortunate in the exceptional publishing houses which serve it so well and so generously. I am thinking in particular of the East-West Library with its impressive list of Jewish classics which are not read anything like widely enough. There are also the Soncino editions of the Bible, and many other works that are basic to Judaism. Yet much of their work is quite unknown to a great many of the younger generation who would welcome some intelligent guidance for their own study and reading. This feeling is reinforced when one comes to consider the intellectual barrenness of what is known now as the "Golders Green novel."

(Continued on page 10)

#### ENTRANCE AND EXIT ON ISRAEL PRESS FRONT

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION RECORDS will hardly be challenged by the latest arrival in Israel journalism. After years of discussion and planning, Kol Yisrael has at last produced an equivalent of the Radio Times, or rather what is meant to be a combination of the Radio Times and the Listener. It falls far short of this lofty aim, being only a poorly produced, boring hotch-potch of miscellaneous features ranging from philatelics to archaeology. Disappointment in Radio is all the greater because of the dire need in Israel today for a serious, readable weekly on a high level. It is a strange fact that, although dozens of journals appear in as many languages on Israel's newspaper stalls every week, there is not one single good political independent weekly which is readable and lively without being destructive and libellous.

Not that there has been a lack of trying. Weeklies and monthlies appear and vanish with the speed of a magician's rabbit. The latest experiment was an English weekly—The Israel Star—which aped the tabloid form of newspaper

common in the United States (complete with pages of coloured comic strips). The Star lasted barely three months before disappearing. I discussed its failure with its editor, Mr. Shimon Shoham, an enterprising young Israeli who went to Israel from London fourteen years ago. The story was the usual one. Financial backing which had been promised was not forthcoming. At least six months' coverage against loss was needed to produce a paper, Mr. Shoham explained.

I doubt whether anyone will mourn the loss of *The Israel Star* which, in its way, set a record for an all-time low in Israeli journalism. The field for a good Israeli weekly still remains open.

## TELEVISION—BY COURTESY OF BEIRUT AND CAIRO

ISRAEL'S THEATRE AND theatre-goers have all been shocked out of their complacency with the presentation by an American company of the Jerome Robbins—Leonard Bernstein musical West Side Story. It is already setting box office records despite the inflated ticket

prices (cheapest seats cost approximately the equivalent of one pound sterling).

But for those who do not go to the theatre there exists a new—if expensive —medium of entertainment. Again, for the first time in Israel, tell-tale television aerials have begun to appear on a number of houses. People living in the north of the country find they can view Beirut and Damascus television programmes without any difficulty—and, although Damascus programmes are all in Arabic, Beirut still broadcasts a number of programmes in French.

Recently a number of experiments were made in the Tel Aviv area and the lucky ones with television sets found they could pick up Cairo's programmes very clearly. Lucky ones? One television fan in Givatayim, who had proudly announced his discovery, became so inundated with requests to view from relatives that he locked up his set until the coming of an Israeli television service.

## WHERE RED WINE COMES FROM

IF YOU ARE A DRINKER of Soviet wines sold in London, you may well be supporting a Jewish industry in Russia, I am told by my Student of Soviet Affairs. Of the four collective farms engaged in wine growing near Derbent in the Caucasus, three are Jewish—the Lenin has 1,200 Jewish members, the Stalin, 1,900 and the Put Komunizma (Road to Communism), 14,000. My correspondent says that they grow the Norma and Agadan varieties of grape, which are used for the more expensive Caucasian wines.

Viticulture was very probably introduced to the Caucasus by the Mountain Jews of Daghestan, who have always been wine growers. It is these same Jews who were the subject, last August, of a blood libel published in the local communist newspaper in Buynaksk, the Daghestan capital. The Mountain Jews speak a Persian dialect called Tati, which is quite different from the thirty-odd Japhetic languages and dialects spoken in the area. It is likely that they are descendants of the Jews exiled from Israel by the Emperor Artaxerxes Ochus in 350 B.C. My correspondent tells me that they have names like Shabtai Abramov, Yahuda Rakhminov, Ben-Zion Rakhnyakov, Moshe Lumov and Shimshon Yukhanov. They seem to be operating on a large scale. The Stalin Collective Farm has its own wine cellars and processes 300 tons of grapes a day. It also has a football team which is wellknown all over Daghestan, and an enthusiastic chess circle.



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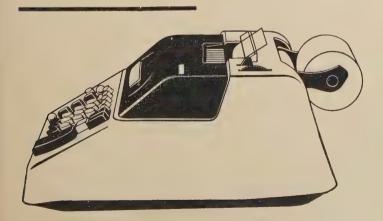
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#### **MOROCCO**

## TEST FOR HASSAN

NEW ATTACK ON THE FOURTH ESTATE

from our own correspondent

#### Rabat:

"He died when we most needed him," said King Hassan last week of his late father. And the politicians of the troubled Right whispered a heartfelt "Amen."

For the new king comes to the throne at a time when the Moroccan Government and, by association, the throne, is under the strongest pressure the non-communist Left has ever been able to muster. Their campaign of opposition has been built around a series of domestic issues:

Increases in agricultural tax in a year when there had been a promise of no increases; scandals concerning alleged misappropriation of relief funds for the victims of the Agadir earthquake; the demand for an elected constituent assembly to draft a constitution; the growing political consciousness of the army.

Distant from reality: Talking to a visiting foreign journalist recently, a former Cabinet Minister remarked: "You must pay no attention to what our newspapers and radio say. It's all for internal use only." But there has been no indication of late that the Government shared this view.



MOROCCAN JEWS MOURN MOHAMMED'S PASSING Will the ill wind pass them by?

In fact, at no time since Morocco won its independence in 1956 has the Moroccan press been closer to the centre of the turbulent political and personal conflicts that make up the troubled mosaic of Moroccan affairs, conflicts that have only been emphasised by the passing of Mohammed V.

At a time when the rest of North Africa was turning aside from internal squabbles to the possibility of negotiating a settlement of the Algerian problem, the Moroccan press was more and more reflecting the country's isolation or, as one western diplomat so succintly put it, "the distance between Morocco and the realities of the moment."

Silencing the opposition: However, the arbitrary and often seemingly capricious handling of the Moroccan press by Information Minister Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, at various levels of police and judicial authority, had almost nothing to do with the critical debate on important foreign policy issues facing the country, among them:

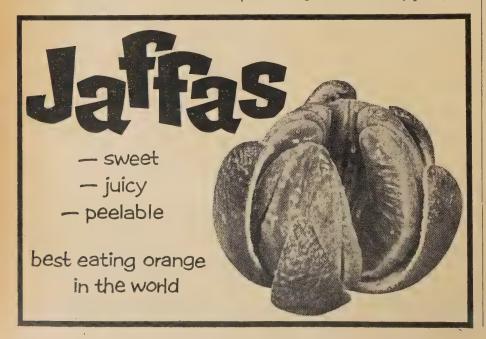
Morocco's withdrawal from the Congo (the Arabic press was still vainly demanding that the government discipline General Kettani for advocating that the Moroccan contingent be retained with the U.N. forces); Mauretania; Moroccan Jewry and world Zionism; Morocco's place in the Arab League or in the coming Algerian peace parleys; the questions of Soviet and American aid.

The government's concern was seemingly with none of these, but with attempts to silence the opposition of the Left on domestic issues.

By approval: The malaise of the Moroccan press, in its principal aspect, has passed the stage of conflict between the government and the French-language papers, all controlled by Yves Maas. The "Maas press," as Moroccans call it, has been effectively "neutralised." It has ceased printing any real news of Morocco.

Only the Palace communiques and the press releases of certain "approved" organisations now appear in its columns.

Now the conflict centres almost entirely on the newspapers, both in French and



Arabic, published by the solid coalition represented by the Union Nationale des Forces Populaires (U.N.F.P.); its ally, the Union Marocaine des Travailleurs (U.M.T.), which controls about 80 per cent of Moroccan labour, and their subsidiary organisations, such as the Jeunesse Ouvriere Marocaine (J.O.M.) and the Union Nationale des Etudiants Marocains (U.N.E.M.).

Special message: In every possible way, but chiefly by seizures and suspensions, the present regime seeks to still their nagging criticism, and their preparation for the trial of strength which most Moroccans now feel is bound to come within the next few months.

Thus it was that Avant-Garde, the weekly U.M.T. organ, having demanded a constituent assembly and the establishment of a democratic regime, found itself seized, after the usual motorcycle messenger had rushed copies from the print shop in Casablanca to the press inspectors of the National Security Directorate in Rabat. And when the editor, Mohammed Tibary, came to work the following Monday morning, another special messenger handed him a letter signed by the Interior Minister: Avant-Garde was suspended until further notice.

Abderrahmane Yousseffi, the editor of the U.N.F.P. organ At-Tahrir, itself seized eight times in ten days, commented: "We consider the suppression of Avant-Garde as one link in the huge and hideous chain with which the State seeks to fetter freedom of expression in this country. It is one of the decisive steps leading to the complete suppression of freedom of expression and condemnation of the people to complete silence..."

Quickly, the same team of unionists and ex-resistance leaders that edited Avant-Garde produced a substitute, the French-languge weekly Al-Moustakabal (The Future), organ of the J.O.M. which first appeared as a bilingual weekly in March 1958 but ceased publication shortly afterwards. It carried the same type faces, headlines and editorial themes as Avant-Garde.

Communists left free: There were some piquant additions: an imaginary conversation between two Swedish tourists, who had been picked up at random and entertained by Information Minister Alaoui, which held Alaoui up to scorn and ridicule; and a parable, in the form of a letter from a Meknes reader, about a king who, deciding he no longer liked his barber, and hearing that the chief minaret of the city had fallen into ruins, blamed the barber and ordered him beheaded.

Many of Al-Moustakabal's faithful readership might take this to be an

oblique reference to attempts by the Palace to bring General Kettani to book for his unorthodox statements about the U.N. in the Congo.

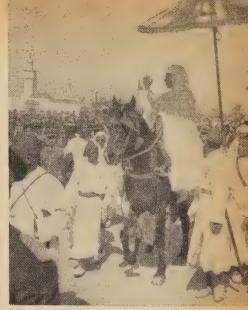
Even as police officers were hastening to the kiosks to pick up any stray copies of At-Tahrir or Avant-Garde, the Moroccan Communist Party was freely circulating the third issue of its semi-official mouthpiece, Al-Moukafih (The Combattant), suspended last October, but authorised to reappear during the recent visit to Morocco of President Leonid Breznev of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

Jewish community paper: For Morocco's 175,000 Jews, and for the organisations abroad which have been following their fortunes closely since the sinking of the yacht *Pisces* off the Moroccan coast, in which 41 emigrants to Israel drowned, one of the most important press events was the appearance of *La Voix des Communautés*, a French-language weekly which gives the Moroccan Jewish communities their first press organ since 1956. Its appearance coincided with an interview granted to the *New York Times* by Interior Minister Mustapha Bekkai in which the Minister:

- ¶ admitted that Casablanca police had "acted a bit brutally" in their treatment of Jews arrested during the Casablanca conference. The arrests were mainly, said Mr. Bekkai, for "preventive" reasons so that "pro-Israel demonstrations," including the wearing of caps, would not provoke anti-Semitic reactions on the part of the Moslems;
- ¶ echoed assurances given to the Grand Rabbi and to community leaders by the late King a few days earlier that delivery of passports would be speeded up, and that Moroccan Jews were free to travel anywhere except to Israel. Moroccans who do emigrate to Israel, he added, must suffer "the consequences": loss of Moroccan citizenship and property;
- I denied plans to close down operations of the American Joint Distribution Committee, the Alliance Israélite, and other Jewish cultural, religious and relief organisations that had been under heavy fire from the Arabic press, but said the Government was on the alert for all signs of Zionist activity;

¶ accepted an invitation to preside over the congress of Moroccan Jewish communities on March 19.

Yet, only a few days later, eleven Moroccan Jews and two French citizens of the Jewish faith, André Nidam, professor at the Fez technical college, and M. Ruimi, arrested on February 9, were



HASSAN GREETS HIS PEOPLE The conflicts are mounting

arraigned before Meknes District Court on charges connected with the distribution of Zionist tracts.

Not the same thing: Some observers have tried to see significance in the fact that Jewish leaders were invited to the installation of King Hassan and the religious service that preceded the ceremony. But the more cautious have learned that public expression of support for minority rights and administrative practice are not always the same thing.

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#### ISRAEL

#### **FACE-LIFT** FOR JERUSALEM

NEW HOPE FOR AN END TO UNPLANNED DEVELOPMENT

from Yohanan Ramati

#### Jerusalem:

Plans for the development of Jewish Jerusalem are legion, and even if only some of them are finally implemented it will be difficult to recognise many parts of the city in years to come.

Perhaps the most ambitious of the projects is that of creating a new city centre in the south, between the growing suburbs of Kiryat Yovel, Katamon and Givat Mordecai. The new centre is planned to contain cinemas and other public buildings, as well as dense commercial and residential areas.

The plan originated with the Ministry of Labour, and was brought for discussion and eventual amendment to a joint meeting with leading architects and the Executive Committee of the Jerusalem Municipality, which gave it its blessing.

Ministry becomes co-operative: The Municipality hopes that this procedure reflects a new trend in the Ministry of Labour, and that, in future, the two public bodies will be able to co-operate closely, instead of the Ministry blithely building what it likes where it likes without overmuch attention to the building laws. There are indications that the Ministry has decided on co-operation, and its suggestion that the new centre should be built in stone is also significant of new thinking.

Another important development project is that for the rehabilitation of the Nahlat Shiv's quarter, which clutters up the area between Jaffa Road and the Garden of Independence, Here, the Israel Land Development Corporation is the prime mover, with the Municipality doing all it can to accelerate execution.

Some of the plans for individual buildings to be erected in this quarter have already been submitted for approval. They include an imposing arcade and wide streets where today ancient,

bedraggled houses virtually fall over each other. But the implementation of the project is delayed by the difficulties of accommodating the present inhabitants of the quarter.

Border not favoured: The section of Jaffa Road facing the Wallach Hospital is likewise due for rehabilitation. Solel Boneh took the initiative here, and have submitted plans which would leave the main road wider and substitute a number of high residential-cum-business buildings for the present tenements.

The border presents problems of its own, which cause the Municipality many



JERUSALEM MAYOR ISH-SHALOM Headaches on the border

headaches. Some of the buildings in which people are living in the Musrara quarter and in the Fast Hotel area behind the old commercial centre (burnt out by Arabs before Israel came into official existence) are not really fit for habitation. The new budget of the Municipality provides a special allocation for improving the standards of cleanliness and hygiene in these areas, but this is only a small part of the problem.

Some way will have to be found to encourage building on the border. The erection of tall apartment houses there would also have other advantages. For the time being, contractors are understandably reluctant to build near the frontier, fearing that they will get no customers for their flats. A Government subvention which would make building for rent profitable might perhaps help to supply a solution.

Up to the Government? The financial situation of the Municipality is not such as to enable it to finance such a project at this stage. In any case, security considerations make this a valid sphere for Government action.

The general aspect of the city is also changing; not in every case for the better. Local architects have recently shown themselves anxious to emulate certain modern building styles currently popular in some countries of the west. The laws prescribing the use of stone for building in most parts of the city naturally hinder the extensive use of asbestos, pre-cast cement and other materials the modern builder likes to play with-not least because they cost considerably less. These materials rarely blend well with stone.

Nor, for that matter does cement, which some architects like to leave uncovered to accentuate the structural basis of the building. But the main trouble is that no real effort has been made to develop a style which is both modern and suitable to the massive, dignified character of the

Introducing industry: However, at a recent meeting of the city's architects, it was the unanimous opinion of those present that it is possible to build modern houses in stone. It is to be hoped that this challenge to creativeness will bear fruit.

As regards economic planning, much remains to be done. No plan for the industrialisation of Jerusalem exists today, and one is very necessary. A proposal that the Jerusalem Municipality, together with the Jerusalem Development Corporation and the Jerusalem Labour Council, should set up a committee to deal with the preparation of such a plan is at present under consideration.

Not every industry is suitable for Jerusalem. But many are. And a much greater effort will have to be made if development is to proceed in a manner leading to economic prosperity rather than to the dangers inevitably created by leaving things to chance.

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## ELECTRONIC FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

SKILLED ENGINEERS AVAILABLE FOR THE ASKING

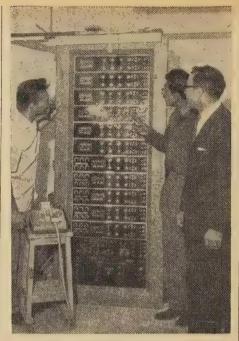
by Lt.-Col. Y. Shehori\*

The unusual speed of development in the electronics industry throughout the world is a measure of the increasing role electronic equipment is playing in all walks of life.

The industry, in order to meet this growing demand for an ever-increasing range of goods and equipment, is feeling the strain of the continual expansion of its means of production. In standardised articles like radio receivers and television, this strain is being overcome by the introduction of automated mass-production techniques, but in the field of electronic equipment where batch production is the order of the day, these techniques cannot be used with any success.

The demand for electronics engineers and technicians is continually growing, but universities and technical schools have not yet been geared to the increasing demand, and even when they have

\* Secretary of the Israel Electronic Manufacturers' Association.



ANOTHER KIND OF ISRAELI BRAIN An electronic one, to aid the citrus industry

been, several years will elapse before the effect is felt.

Well paid engineers: In the meantime, as always when demand exceeds supply, prices are going up, and, today, electronics engineers and technicians, being

at a premium, are very well paid indeed. These high salary and wage scales in an industry where the added value of labour is very considerable, ranging from 50 per cent to 90 per cent, considerably increase production costs, resulting in unnecessarily high prices for the end product.

This situation has led manufacturers to turn to areas where manpower is cheap, but, unfortunately, such areas do not have the required technical means to produce *trained* manpower, let alone the high standards of know-how and skills involved in electronics training.

Israel is an exception to this rule. Its excellent technical college and a network of vocational schools train a large number of electronics engineers and technicians every year. This system was planned with great foresight by Israel's educators, who realised that this technical age will come to depend to an increasing degree on highly skilled manpower.

Manpower surplus: Israel's electronics industry has not developed at the rate of Europe's or America's, chiefly because the Israel Government has not found it necessary to finance military electronics. The supply of technical manpower therefore exceeds the demand, and as a result, labour rates here are less than half those in America in this field.

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The Israel Government, in its drive for industrial expansion, has realised that the best possibilities lie in developing those industries whose raw material demands are very low, and skilled labour demands high.

In this category electronics comes nearly at the top, and Israel is anxious to develop her electronics industry by attracting foreign investors of know-how and capital.

Research facilities: In addition to the prospect of cheap skilled labour, Israel can offer excellently equipped and staffed electronics research and development facilities at the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Hebrew University and the Haifa Technical College, while the Israel Standards Institute operates its own electronics laboratory for quality control. Factory buildings, communications, and Government loans are all readily available for investors interested in this field.

U.S.O.M. in Israel, in conjunction with the Israel Electronics Manufacturers' Association, is lending valuable technical aid in developing the industry, and is shortly sending a team of electronics experts from a firm of well-known American engineering consultants, in order to prepare a comprehensive survey of present means and future potential for the full development of a major electronics industry in this country.

The prospects should be bright, therefore, for American and European electronics enterprises contemplating an expansion into foreign fields; and the Secretary of I.E.M.A. would be happy to answer any enquiries on the subject from his office in Ma'ariv House, Tel Aviv.

#### ISRAEL'S OTHER AIRLINE

ARKIA MAKES THE GRADE

from a special correspondent

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While Israel's national airline, El Al, is often in the news, much less is heard of its subsidiary Arkia, which provides the country's inland air services. Yet Arkia is a good example of a company that, 

#### ARKIA'S FLYING HOURS

Route	JanSept. 1959	JanSept. 1960		+ or
Tel Aviv—Elath	 2,980	3,258	1	+278
Tel Aviv-Mahanayim	 936	846		90
Tel Aviv—Nahariya	 56	78		+ 22
Special Local Flights	 71	76		+ 5
Charter Flights Abroad	 631	1,268		+637
Total	 4,674	5,526		+852

#### ARKIA'S INCOME IN 1£

Route	JanSept. 1959	JanSept. 1960	Increase
Tel Aviv—Elath	864,565	1,033,601	+169,036
Tel Aviv—Mahanayim	69,935	97,854	+ 29,919
Tel Aviv—Nahariya	7,093	7,258	+ 165
Special Flights in Israel	23,609	33,506	+ 9,897
Charter Flights Abroad	163,091	355,379	+192,288
Income from Freights and Mail	56,360	67,127	+ 10,767
Total	1,184,653	1,594,725	+412,072

after a shaky start, is doing very well indeed.

One might be forgiven for supposing that a country the size of Israel needs no inland air transport. Such a view, however, disregards the Jewish State's peculier proportions—its length from north to south being many times its average width.

People wishing to visit Elath usually prefer to fly, rather than spend several hours driving through the desert (despite its scenic appeal). Indeed, the Tel Aviv-Elath route has been Arkia's bread and butter, though last year its importance in the company's operations declined somewhat.

Expansion at good rate: Arkia expanded during 1960 at a very satisfactory pace. The number of passengers carried rose from 57,969 to 73,131, and though the substitution of Dakotas for the less comfortable Beechcraft increased carrying capacity by nearly 20 per cent, 74 per cent of capacity was exploited as against 73 per cent in 1959. There was a similar improvement in cargo carried, though this is no longer a significant part of the company's operations, now that the road to Elath has been opened to heavy commercial traffic.

The accompanying table shows the number of hours flown on Arkia's various routes during 1959 and 1960. The increase in the number of charter flights abroad is particularly noteworthy. Chartering enables Israelis to travel reasonably cheaply (although nothing like as fast as by El Al or other international airlines) to other Mediterranean countries.

The charter flights carry not only Israelis but also tourists wishing to go straight to Elath without stopovers at Lydda Airport. Some 800 tourists were carried on tours organised by the Mediterranean Club, most of them flown direct from Athens to Elath, Altogether, there were 60 charter flights to and from Greece during the summer of 1960 and more are expected this year.

More in 1960: During the whole of 1959, Arkia's income totalled only

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I£1,581,340 net of commissions paid to agents (which amounted to just over I£68,000). In other words, the first nine months of 1960 yielded more than the whole of the preceding year. Gross profits during 1959 totalled I£118,107. In 1960, they were apparently considerably

Arkia's main expenditure is on fuel and aircraft maintenance, as the following breakdown shows:

Maintenance of Aircraft	I£427,944
Fuel	298,038
Flying personnel	209,585
Ground personnel	155,658
Insurance	58,973
Training of pilots	16,856
Services for passengers	15,146
Other expenditure	125,922

I£1,308,122

Amortisation of aircraft 155.111

I£1,463,233

After adding income from miscellaneous sources, such as sales of equipment, etc., and deducting some I£35,500 spent on advertising and nearly I£150,000 of administrative overheads, the company was left with a net profit of just over I£19,000 on the year's operations. This is likely to have been considerably larger in 1960.

The transfer of operations from Lydda to Tel Aviv Airport has helped to popularise the company's flights, which can be expected to increase. As Galilee and the Negev become more closely settled, direct connection between them by air may also become a commercial proposition. In the meantime Arkia, despite all its problems, has managed remarkably well.

#### **ZIONISM**

#### "LIFE" TAKES ANOTHER LOOK

AND DOESN'T THINK MUCH OF WHAT IT SEES

from our own correspondent

New York:

Zionism is certainly taking a battering in the U.S. in these first months of 1961. In the wake of Dr. Joachim Prinz, with his call for the dissolution of the Zionist Movement, Life magazine came shunting along last week with some thoughts of its own.

Prinz, reported Life, had pronounced the Zionist Movement dead and due for burial and had called for a "long overdue" ideological debate on what should replace it. In an effort to assist this process, Life provided its readers with some "background" observations.

"Jews differ on what it means to be a Jew," the magazine commented. "Some are happy in the 'abyss of assimilation'. Others identify it with their religion. Rabbi Prinz and others call it 'peoplehood', the Jewish community with its unique history and culture. Of this 'peoplehood' identity, Zionism has been the most potent secular focus for 50 years. The crisis of Zionism affects all who reject Ben-Gurion's strict 'ingathering' definition."

The place to be: Obviously, concedes Life, only the Jews can resolve this crisis, "but any American can make one observation. Ever since Harry Truman helped the Zionists overthrow the British mandate in Palestine, American Zionism has



EBAN AND U.J.A. CHIEF WILLIAM ROSENWALD The "assumptions" have changed

had an occasionally distorting influence on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and even more on the Arab interpretation of it. We hope that will not be true of Zionism's successor."

Examining the starting off point for this proposed "successor", the *Life* writer agreed that, "for all its precarious economics, the State of Israel was now a going concern. And not the least of its achievements, in Ben-Gurion's own words, was that it had "straightened the backs of Jews in every country". Sometimes, he even asserted a grander national purpose: "The redemption of the Jewish people and of all mankind." People who shared this vision, stated Life, should certainly accept Ben-Gurion's invitation to share the fate of Israel—in Israel.

"But for Jews content with other homes, it is now time to take a closer look at their links with Israel. How did that nation come to be? The Zionist movement was born of the conviction, clearly stated by its founder, Theodor Herzl, that western civilisation is incurably infected with anti-Semitism. Zionism was born during the Dreyfus case and came to its climax in the time of Hitler. It was a natural reaction and a powerful

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reproach to those gross sins of Western Christian civilisation. The Jews declared their independence in this civilisation by adopting its own chief weapon, nationhood."

"Flight and suffering": Yet, continued Life, western liberal society could not accept the charge of endemic anti-Semitism. Nations committed to the improvement of that society, and here it quoted the U.S., "need Jewish citizens more than they need Israel to remind them of their own sins. Perhaps the Jews need Israel as reinsurance; its constitution requires it to accept any Jewish immigrant, but the existence of this option need raise no charge of 'divided loyalty' against American Jews. They should nevertheless remember that Israel was founded on extremely pessimistic assumptions and is a symbol of flight and suffering. In a modern society, the danger of anti-Semitism needs to be combatted, not fled."

Recalling Meir Grossman's argument at the last Zionist Congress for a clear separation between world Jewry and the foreign policy of Israel, and his warning that the misinterpretation of their relationship could become dangerous for both, Life declares that: "Whatever its special mission in history, Israel must live as a small Levantine state, and its foreign problems are, to say the least, different from those of the U.S. To help Israel with money and sympathy is a worthy philanthropy for any American. To make Israel a political cause is, or should be, to live in Israel, American Zionism has too often flourished in the perilous murk between philanthropy and politics. Its successor, we hope, will keep the distinction clear."

Organised Zionists, already suffering a dwindling away of membership, were understandably dismayed. It is one thing to carry on a debate before an audience of two or three million American Jews. It is quite another when the issue is thrown open to the 30 million or so people reputed to read *Life*.

Miller's defence: Rising to the defence, Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the all-party American Zionist Council, contended that Zionism was not "what its enemies say it is, including the tendentious charge that it diminishes the loyalty of Jews towards their native countries, an accusation based on ignorance or malice. "If there was ever a need for a vital, alert American Zionism, it is now," Miller stated.

He was answering not only *Life*, but also Dr. Prinz. But the bulk of American Zionists wanted something more—they wanted the American Jewish Congress to publicly dissociate itself from the Prinz



WOOLF PERRY Something of a test

statement. Under this pressure, the Congress Governing Council had to say something and it did, trying—like Prinz himself—to establish that he had been speaking in an individual capacity, but failing to explain why he had chosen a Congress platform for his statement and, subsequently, the Congress offices for a press conference at which he later expanded his views.

This is how the Governing Council put it: "The Governing Council of the American Jewish Congress wishes to record that Dr. Prinz's statement of his personal views does not commit the American Jewish Congress to his position. At the same time, the Governing Council fully affirms the right of Dr. Prinz to express his views from the platform of Congress, as its president, for the purpose announced by him at the time of prompting a discussion of a vital issue in Jewish life.

"The Governing Council also takes this opportunity to reaffirm that the American Jewish Congress continues to be dedicated to the declaration of its constitution in support of Israel. That declaration pledges the American Jewish Congress to 'assist the people of Israel to develop in freedom, security and peace, and will promote mutual understanding and co-operation between America and Israel and between the Jewish communities of both lands'."

Zionists in particular are not sure that co-operation will be much helped by Dr. Prinz's remarks.

## CONTROVERSY AT THE Z.F. CONFERENCE

#### DRASTIC REVISION OF PROCEDURE

from the Jewish Affairs Reporter

The Executive Council of the Zionist Federation has, I understand, agreed to a drastic revision of the procedure at the forthcoming annual conference. There are to be none of the customary orations from the platform.

Instead, an attempt has been made to shape the conference more in line with that of the Labour Party. Apart from the brief chairman's address and the Israel Ambassador's greetings, all other speeches will be part of the overall debates on the resolutions on which the conference will concentrate.

On the opening night, Saturday, March 25, the most controversial subject is to be introduced by Mr. Israel Sieff under the heading of Israel in the Middle East.

On the brink: This resolution, which I gather was rather more forthright and critical of existing policy in its original version, still attempts to break new ground. It refers to the speech by Israel's Minister of Education to the Zionist Congress which, it will be recalled, drew attention to the comparative imbalance between the students of higher education in the neighbouring Arab countries and in Israel, and urged the Zionist Movement to face the implications of this situation.

The resolution to be submitted by Mr. Sieff attempts to do this. It implies, without saying so, that there are considerable shortcomings in Israel's educational system and suggests that a combined effort should be made by Israel and the Diaspora to meet this situation.

It proposes a Joint Israel-Diaspora education authority to plan and implement what needs to be done.

Powerful support for the ideas expressed in the resolution was expressed by Mr. Ben-Gurion in last Friday's Davar, and by the Israel Ambassador in London on Monday. Addressing the Friends of the Hebrew University, Mr. Lourie stressed that it had become essential to recognise "the pivotal importance of education in Israel." The survival of the State would be determined, in a great measure, by the education and training which the present and future generations of Israelis would receive.

This, then, is clearly to be an interesting new kind of resolution, but it will still

require a good deal of elaboration by the proposer. In its present formulation, it is perched on the brink of saying something without actually committing itself.

Somewhat confusing: The same thing cannot be said about Mapam's resolution on the JEWISH OBSERVER, though there will be much regret, not only in Mapam quarters, that certain parts of this resolution have been disallowed.

The original version, I am told, accused the paper of supporting President Nasser and King Hussein and attacked it for suggesting that the situation in the Arab world was at times somewhat confusing. Mapam, furthermore, wants to have the JEWISH OBSERVER'S "destructive attitude" to Zionism changed.

Successor to Perry: While the political resolutions submitted by the Executive Council have the now familiar air of studied formalism and are unlikely to rouse either much interest or controversy, the debates on Russia, Germany and the Middle East scheduled for the opening night should provide both.

But, for the moment, the interest is focused on the possible successor to the Federation's Chairman, Woolf Perry, who is emigrating to Israel immediately after the Conference. The field at present appears as open as that at Aintree. The candidates range from the older to the younger, and many claims have been staked.

The Federation's Hon. Secretary, Donald Silk, is a popular candidate with the younger generation, while Mr. Jacob Halevy seems to be the favourite of the veterans. The Poale Zion have been advancing the claims of one of their members but seem as yet undecided between Richtiger, Harold Miller, Dr. S. Miller and Jeziersky. Other possible candidates are Janus Cohen and Maurice Cohen.

Something of a test: Mr. Perry's decision to go to Israel has been greeted with much enthusiasm and approval, and, it is hoped, may serve as an example to some others. Perry, I gather, intends to devote himself to Zionist work in Israel and his progress will be watched with great interest.

He will be among the first of the younger Zionist leaders of the Diaspora to settle in Israel during the last few years, and he will be looked upon by many as something of a model prototype in the manner in which he integrates himself into the Israeli political scene.

Most other Zionist leaders who have settled in Israel in recent years have done so when they approached retiring age. With Perry it is different and something of a test, both for him and for the Israeli environment.



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#### ART

## THREE TALENTS

DAGHANI, SOFER AND ABERDAM

Three Jewish artists command special attention this week. Perhaps the most interesting, from a purely human point of view, is Arnold Daghani, who, at the Woodstock Gallery is showing a small, and totally inadequate, selection of his work. It is a great pity that a large, representative exhibition of this gifted and unusual artist could not be mounted, preferably at the Ben Uri Gallery. Daghani was born at Suceva, Rumania, in 1909 and studied art in Munich and Vienna. In October 1941 he and his wife were deported and in 1942 put into a Nazi concentration camp in the South-West Ukraine. He was fortunate to have with him water colours and paper, and a year later, when they escaped, his wife hid the paintings under her clothes.

The majority of these remarkable records are now on permanent exhibition at the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, From 1943 until 1944 the Daghanis lived illegally in a small Ukrainian town which had been made into a ghetto and here, too, he made a series of paintings of Jewish life. Eventually he was rescued by the International Red Cross and repatriated to Bucharest where he lived until 1958. He was then given a passport and told to leave in five days. Through the help of the Israel Minister he found his way to Israel and now holds Israeli nationality.

Among the 20 or so exhibits at the Woodstock Gallery is one water colour of the interior of the concentration camp and 10 drawings or paintings of the ghetto. The other works include an ink portrait of Edith Sitwell and a coloured sketch of Jean Louis Barrault. But, as I have said, this group, whilst interesting and in the case of the Jewish work of historical and emotional interest, gives no idea of Daghani's range which I was fortunate to see in the large number of other drawings, paintings and photographs at the Yad Vashem exhibition.

Through his training and temperament he is what one calls an "expressionist"; this is largely the style of the post-first-world-war German artists. The Barrault drawing, for instance, has a strong affinity with Yawlensky. Daghani is a superb draughtsman, especially fine in the large series of nudes he has prepared



CONCENTRATION CAMP BY DAGHANI
A painting from life by a man who escaped death

for publication. He is also an avid experimenter; he paints on copper, on glass and works in a great variety of media. His colour is most arresting, derived to some extent from Rumanian folk art. He appears to be reluctant to exhibit, which accounts for the hurried and unsatisfactory small collection we are now seeing in London. A larger selection of his religious and Biblical work is shortly to be seen in Rome, and the magazine Adam, edited here by his fellow-countryman Miron Grindea, is to publish an English translation of the diary Daghani kept through his incarceration and the post-war period in Rumania. I understand it is a fascinating document.

Also at the Woodstock Gallery can be seen the sculpture of Sarah Sofer, the Polish-born wife of the Naval Attaché at the Israel Embassy. She shows carvings in wood and stone, and some terracottas. The latter are the least satisfactory since the plasticity of the material seems less suited to her personality than the restrictions of wood or stone. In these media she creates work of greater individuality and beauty. I liked in particular the two small stone carvings, The Lovers and At Rest, where the forms have been stylised into patterns well fitted to the material. There are also some good wood carvings -Head of a Young Woman, Mother and Child, and some of the more recent, abstract pieces.

Alfred Aberdam is considered by many discerning critics to be the outstanding Jewish painter in Paris. The canvases at the Molton Gallery confirm

his great talent. Aberdam was born in Poland in 1894 and studied in Germany before settling in Paris in 1923. He is therefore a member of the later Jewish artistic settlement in the French capital. His work has no Jewish subjectivity and he also displays little of the obvious sadness and angst of most of his contemporaries. These paintings border on the abstract but are usually derived from the movement of the human form. They are gay and optimistic, but never purely decorative or charming. Grey is the predominant colour, but from this sombre background come lovely, soft coloursa lot of pink—and a real joie de vivre. Charles S. Spencer

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#### BOOKS

#### IN THE MIRROR **AGAIN**

ENVY THE FRIGHTENED, by Yael Dayan; 160 pp.; (Weidenfeld and Nicolson) 13s.6d.

"Nimrod will not fear anything. . . . He'll learn to be superior, to be independent, to be alone." Thus did Ivri, an immigrant in pre-State Palestine, decide the inheritance of his eight-year-old son. How he imposed it and what it did to his son and those around him is Yael Dayan's story, told sometimes melodramatically, sometimes movingly, but with a compulsive style that takes the reader through from beginning to end in an agony of concern.

And yet it is a disappointing novel, not alone for the quality of the writing which was bettered in New Face in the Mirror. The prospect, quickly aroused and maintained almost until the end, is that, at last, we shall discover the secret of the prickly cactus, break down the thick skin around the Sabra and savour not only the fruit but also the rarefied air in which it is raised. Alas, we are no nearer the secret. The basic elements are little different from those of our own experience. It is not even the land of Palestine that drives Ivri in his macabre enterprise. His son shall be fearless not for any new reason, but for all the old ones—because his father feared the cheder teacher, the Russian children, the village policemen, even his own parents.

But so, too, did the fathers of many another Sabra without the horrifying 



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consequences. There are Sabras who still fear, healthily, unlike Nimrod, whose lack of fear deprived him of the triumph of its conquest. We should, therefore, ignore the publisher's suggestion that this is "what it is like to be born and to grow up in Israel," and treat it as the story of one boy's journey to maturity under the domination of a father obsessed by fear. On that score it is well worth reading. On that score, too, we can perhaps now discard the Sagan tag frequently applied to Yael Dayan since publication of her first novel. She deserves to, and I am sure will, stand on her own merits. These have nothing whatsoever in common with the author of Aimez-vous Brahms?

Geoffrey D. Paul

#### EACH MAN TEN FEET TALL

Exodus, by Leon Uris; 599 pp.; (Corgi Books) 5s.

If you have not yet read the book and want to know what all the excitement is about before the film bursts on London. here is Mr. Uris's epic in paper-backs. The author, who was quoted recently as answering a critic of his facts with the comment "Just look at my sales figures," takes the first two pages to laud his own success. The technicolour glory of his introductory paragraphs serves as a fitting introduction to the book. If you want your story of Israel's birth served in heroic terms-each man ten feet tallthis is for you. But take the note in small type seriously: "... all the characters in Exodus are the complete creation of the author, and entirely fictional."

#### GOLDEN CHOPPED LIVER

ONLY IN AMERICA, by Harry Golden; 399 pp.; (Perma Books, New York, distributed in Britain by Thorpe and Porter) 3s.6d.

It is not difficult to understand the success achieved in America by Mr. Golden with this anthology of his writings on any topic from Cleopatra's night out to New York Library's massive collection of books by anti-Semites. He has a warm heart, an easy pen and no shortage of opinions, most of which are aired in the Carolina Israelite, a monthly paper which Mr. Golden not only edits but also writes from front cover to back.

Admirers of Fred Bason will find they like Mr. Golden, too, but take him in small doses. Even chopped liver starts to pall after the third plateful.

#### KEEPING UP WITH THE MIDDLE EAST

THE MIDDLE EAST 1961; 516 pp., maps, tables, bibliography, index; (Europa Publications) £3.10s.

Now in its eighth edition, this invaluable reference book maintains the high standards of previous years and, in some respects, improves upon them. The historical and political introduction, which appears over the signature "W.B.F.", is an incredibly compact survey of the area from the earthquakes of Biblical days to the not less volatile eruptions of presentday regional politics. This year an excellent multi-colour map has been introduced in the form of end-papers, the "Who's Who" section has been considerably expanded (General Kassem I see has added a "War Medal" to his list of decorations, and King Farouk is still living care of the post office in San Silvestro) and the range of country-bycountry statistics expanded. In the process, however, something of the topicality so noteworthy in previous editions has been lost. The most recent reference to Israel concerns Argentina's protest over the capture of Eichmann and none at all to the Lavon episode. Yet there are notes on events which took place in the U.A.R. and Turkey as late as January and February this year. However, one or two shortcomings hardly affect the true worth of this essential volume of information.

#### THREE HERZL INSTITUTE **PAMPHLETS**

REPORT ON ISRAEL, by Gertrude Samuels; 40 pp.; illustrations; (Herzl Press), 40 cents.

This pamphlet, like its companions, is well produced. Miss Samuels, a staff writer and photographer on the New York Times Magazine, succeeds in giving a very readable and informative sketch of life in Israel today within the very narrow compass of less than fifty pages.

THE WORLD OF THE SEPHARDIM, by David de Sola Pool, Raphael Patai, Abraham Lopez Cardozo; 70 pp.; (Herzl Press) 50 cents.

The three articles in this pamphlet are based on lectures given at the Theodor Herzl Institute. They are absorbingly interesting. Ashkenazim will find a great deal of information about their Sephardi co-religionists here, and Sephardim themselves will certainly gain from reading it.

THEODOR HERZL, The Birth of Jewish Statesmanship, by Emanuel Neumann; 62 pp.; (Herzl Press) 50

This is an excellent introduction to Herzl, a "potted" biography which should lead the reader to Herzl's own works and diaries.

#### TWELFTH CENTURY HUMOUR

THE BOOK OF DELIGHT, by Joseph Ben-Meir Zabara, translated by Moses Hadas; 203 pp., bibliography, index; (Columbia University Press; London: Oxford University Press) 12s.

Professor Hadas must have enjoyed translating this twelfth century Spanish Jewish physician's collection of stories and anecdotes. They are well worth dipping into for their humour, their down to earth approach and the light they throw on the state of medical knowledge. customs and beliefs of the time. The translation is beautifully done, both the prose and the verse being a delight to young Jewish man or woman hovering in

read. Every sentence passes the acid test of being read aloud, triumphantly. The book has a learned and interesting introduction by Merriam Sherwood.

#### **JEWISH** PRIZEWINNERS

THE LAUREATES, by Tina Levitan: 236 pp., appendix, bibliography, index; (Mark Paterson for Bookman Twayne Association) 35s.

Having defined her terms of reference -Jewish here means born of a Jewish mother, and includes those who have left Judaism—the authoress gives potted biographies of the forty Jewish Nobel Prize winners between 1905 and 1959, together with pictures of them and information about their work. This is a useful work of reference, although not as useful as its price—thirty-five shillings -might suggest.

#### MAN AND RELIGION

A FAITH FOR MODERNS, by Robert Gordis; 316 pp., index; (Bloch Publishing Company, New York) \$5.

Dr. Gordis's book is for the intelligent

that limbo between belief and disbelief. but with a basic anxiety to achieve the former. But it merits a much wider readership for its fearlessness in facing up to problems too often shirked by religious leaders and writers on religious topics. One such is the presence of evil, and evil experience, in a God-created world. There is also a great deal of worth in the author's chapter "Why not one religion?" in which he makes the valid, but too often obscured, point that: "It simply is not true that all religions are expressing the same truths, or even that at their highest level all religions will meet." An intelligent, tolerant and wellwritten book.

#### A LABOUR OF LOVE

ENGINEER OF THE SOUL, by Sadie Alta Cohen; 222 pp., illustrations; (Bloch Publishing Company, New York)

This is a biographical labour of love by his widow about Reform Rabbi J. X. Cohen, who was a civil engineer before donning the cloth. The general reader will not find here anything of absorbing interest, though anyone who knew the Rabbi, or benefited from his kindliness, would probably like to have a copy.

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Solomon Schechter: Writings; 12s. 6d. Philo: Philosophical Writings; 10s. 6d.

Jehuda Halevi: The Kuzari; 10s. 6d.

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## Yael Dayan

#### ENVY THE FRIGHTENED

This talented young Israeli writer's 'vivid new novel' (Evening Standard) is just published and is already receiving gratifying critical acclaim, 'Very good indeed' (Times Literary Supplement) 13/6

WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON

#### THE LEONARD STEIN REPORT

THE BALFOUR DECLARATION, by Leonard Stein, 681 pp., index; (Vallentine Mitchell) £3.3.0.

I have read the whole of this long book; and I have also read most of the major reviews which have appeared in the short time which has elapsed since its publication. Already one thing is clear: no Zionist library and, for that matter, no anti-Zionist library, dare be without it.

For what Mr. Stein has done to the Balfour Declaration is not so much to write a book assessing it, as to write a Royal Commission's report on the circumstances surrounding the making of the Balfour Declaration in November 1917. Unfortunately, however that part of the Royal Commission Report which is usually headed "Conclusions" is missing. It ought still to be added to the book, either by Mr. Stein himself, or by someone else making the fullest use of the findings in this rich mine of information.

Mr. Stein has fulfilled an important historical function, but he has not altogether completed it. The reaction of the reviewers of his book is the best proof of that, and none more so than Peter Calvocoressi in the Spectator. For Mr. Stein has presented all the necessary evidence to enable some conclusions to be drawn—and there are few events of recent history that need this more than does the Balfour Declaration—but he has not himself passed judgment on the events. He has himself said in defence that he has not felt himself called upon to do so, and he may be right from the point of view of the historian who has no interest in the consequences of his history. But I am sure that Mr. Stein is not that sort of abstract researcher. His book shows that. And that is why it would be a pity to leave it in this inconclusive manner.

What sort of conclusions should then be drawn from this study? As I have already referred to Calvocoressi's review let me begin with it. It claims that the Balfour Declaration was conceived without concern for the Arab world, and without realisation of the Arab problem. Yet one of the most important contributions of Mr. Stein's book is precisely in this field. It shows to what an extraordinary degree the men responsible for the Declaration were preoccupied with the Arab question. In a way, they had a far more imaginative approach to it than had Lawrence, Clayton, Hogarth and Gertrude Bell who were based in Cairo. Sykes's, Cecil's and Weizmann's ideals of Arab nationalism—which they repeatedly expressed in the negotiations—were much more genuine and went much further than did the purely utilitarian pro-Arabism which emanated from the Cairo Bureau.

Another important conclusion which can be drawn from the book concerns the peculiar role of the Anglo-Jewish establishment (with the exception of Herbert Samuel), the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Chief Rabbinate. There is enough material here for almost another book—or a course of psycho-analysis—explaining the complex reasons for the implacable hostility to the Declaration which was displayed by the leaders of Anglo-Jewry. As against that, Mr. Stein hardly does justice to the work of the small Manchester group of Weizmann's friends, Sacher, Marks and Sieff, who played a much more significantly practical role in these events than emerges from the narrative.

There is really no need to praise this book. It has established itself as basic education in Zionist and Middle East politics within days of its publication.

Jon Kimche

#### **LETTERS**

#### LIBERAL **ILLUSION?**

Sir,-I am puzzled by two arguments in the leading article of the JEWISH OBSERVER of March 3.

Firstly, you compare Mr. Ben-Gurion's "unpopular stand" in the "Altalena" and Palmach episodes with his rôle in the Lavon Affair. And you ask: "Could it not be that he has a third contribution to make in the sphere of democratic education?"

When Mr. Ben-Gurion insisted on the need to have one national Army outside politics, he was firmly upholding a fundamental principle common to all selfrespecting democratic states. But this is not so clearly the case in the Lavon Affair. It may be that during the last few months Mr. Ben-Gurion has been consistently motivated by a desire to uphold some equally fundamental democratic principle. Unfortunately, the Israeli public still does not know what that principle is and Mr. Ben-Gurion has so far not defined it—surely a curious contribution to "democratic education."

Secondly, you write that the union of the Progressives and the General Zionists would mean "a turn to the Right" and "the effective end of Israeli liberalism."

But both these Parties are almost equally represented in the Knesset and-on the face of it-a union would simply mean, therefore, the amalgamation of two evenlybalanced partners. If the Progressives would have to move to the Right, the General Zionists would have to move to the Left. Jonathan Frankel

Jesus College, Cambridge.

#### CORRECTION

Sir,-A malicious editorial gremlin must have been at work on my review of André Schwarz-Bart's The Last of the Just.

Instead of my original sentence:

"The purpose of all great tragedy is to achieve catharsis-purification of the emotions by a vicarious experience—and the literary beauty and pseudo-mystical basis of this book are very helpful in this direction."

your readers have found the sentence:
"... but the literary beauty and pseudomystical basis of this book are not very

helpful in this direction."

The printed sentence unfortunately distorts my argument, which is that because the book attains a terrible, haunting beauty, its cumulative effect on its non-Jewish readers may not be to shock them into doing something to prevent a repetition of the "Epoch of Ovens," but to make them feel that they have already done something, because they have read the book.

R. Ainsztein

### ISRAELI ENTERPRISE

A Jewish Observer Panorama

#### DISCOUNT BANK'S TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

RAPID PROGRESS IN ALL DIRECTIONS

from our own correspondent

Tel Aviv:

There were already fifty banks operating in Palestine in 1935, when Leon Recanati, leader of the Salonika Jewish community, decided to set up another one. The Palestine Discount Bank, as it then was, started operations with total assets of P£151,000, and by 1945 had become one of the country's three largest banks, with total assets exceeding P£6 million.

The establishment of the State gave added impetus to the bank's development, and by 1960 (having become the Israel Discount Bank in the meantime), it had become Israel's second largest commercial bank, with 76 branches and total assets of more than I£325 million -a fifth of all Israeli banks' total assets.

During the twenty-five years it has been in existence, the Israel Discount Bank has taken over and reorganised existing companies and established new ones as the needs of the country's economy have expanded. In 1944, the bank acquired a controlling interest in the Palestine Mercantile Bank, now the Mercantile Bank of Israel, a wholly owned subsidiary, whose assets are included in the total shown for the Discount Bank.

New bank for industry: In 1959, the Discount Bank and a group of foreign investors set up the Israel Development and Mortgage Bank Limited to cater for the capital investment needs of industry. The Discount Bank also controls the Israel Investment and Finance Corporation Ltd., with share capital and reserves of I£2 million,

The corporation operates as an independent unit and is a shareholder in many important local enterprises, including Delek, Shimshon Tyre, Israel Phoenix Assurance and Naphta Petroleum.

In addition, the Israel Discount Bank has various other subsidiary companies in Israel, and abroad.

U.K. company's investment: To celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary this year, the bank has increased its capital and surplus funds to I£8.5 million, an increase made possible partly by the decision of London's Phoenix Assurance Company Ltd. to subscribe to I£2 million worth of the bank's 6 per cent preferred

#### **NEW INVESTORS' PUBLICATION**

A new independent economic publication has just appeared. Published in Israel and sponsored by the Bank Leumi, Foreign Trade Bank and Ma'ariv, the Israel Investors' Report will appear twice monthly. The first issue is very well produced, and features a special report on the Israeli diamond industry, short features on industry and finance, company reports and stock exchange quotations. It is obtainable from P.O.B. 20144. Tel Aviv.

#### 1960 A GOOD EXPORT YEAR

AFRO-ASIANS BUY MORE FROM ISRAEL

from our own correspondent

#### Jerusalem:

Israel's exports during 1960 were valued at just under \$214.5 million-\$35.7 million more than in 1959. This increase of some 20 per cent was achieved

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NEW ISRAEL-FINLAND TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED On the plus side, with a chance for another boost

despite sharp price drops for citrus and many other major export items. Nearly a million more cases of citrus were exported in 1960, yet the increase in foreign currency income from this source was only \$1.1 million.

One of the most important changes last year was the enormous increase in diamond exports, which easily retained their position at the top of the list. Indeed, polished diamonds constituted 28.5 per cent of the total value of exports. Citrus accounted for a further 21.7 per cent, so the two items together

#### ISRAEL'S BIGGEST EXPORT EARNERS

(thousands of U.S. \$)

	1959	1960	+ or
Diamonds	47,141	61,641	+ 14,500
Citrus	45,493	46,617	+ 1,124
Citrus products	7,316	7,855	+ 539
Eggs	6,520	8,883	+ 2,363
Tyres and tubes	6,298	8,160	+ 1,862
Motor-cars	3,400	2,576	- 824
Plywood and			
Panels	3,807	4,201	+ 394
Potash	3,424	3,769	+ 345
Edible oils	2,914	3,600	+ 686
Copper cement	2,361	3,423	+ 1,062
Cotton yarn	432	2,506	+ 2,084
Cement	2,749	2,473	- 276
Raincoats	2,228	2,259	+ 31
Groundnuts	1,457	2,092	+ 635
Knitwear	857	1,794	+ 897
Other Items	42,390	52,675	+ 10,285
Total	178,787	214,494	+ 35,707

still represent more than half the country's export revenue.

From the table, it will be seen that almost all of the country's biggest foreign currency earners made further progress in 1960. Only motor-cars and cement failed to reach their 1959 totals. Egg exports continued to expand, though it is an open question whether they will remain profitable if the allocations of U.S. surplus fodder to poultry farmers is discontinued or limited.

More tyres every year: The continued success of Israel tyres in the export markets deserves particular mention, since this is a very competitive field. There has not been a single year since the two tyre plants went into production in Petach Tikva and Hadera when their exports have not increased, but in 1960, this increase was even larger than usual.

Exports of potash and copper are as yet nowhere near their peak, and are likely to constitute a much higher percentage of the total volume of exports in four or five years' time. Textiles are another successful export item where last year's progress is likely to be repeated in future.

Two major trends are apparent from an analysis of the geographical distribution of Israel's exports in 1960, as compared with 1959. The first is the tremendous expansion of sales to West Germany, Holland and Belgium. The second is the rapid increase in exports to Afro-Asia (see table at top of next column).

### WHERE ISRAEL'S EXPORTS WENT

(thousands of U.S. \$)

		1959	1960	+	or
Great Britain		32,843	35.417	+	2,574
United States		27,024	28,781	+	1,757
West Germany		16,970	25,663	+	8,693
Belgium		9,257	13,058	+	3,801
Holland		6,691	11.370	+	4,679
Switzerland		9,590	10,343	+	753
Turkey		8,821	9,157	+	336
Hong Kong		4,864	6,367	+	1,503
Sweden		3.870	4,711	+	841
Yugoslavia		4.997	4,676	-	321
Italy		3,949	4,616	+	667
France		3,940	4,125	+	185
Finland		2,967	3,022	+	55
Greece		1,669	2,914	+	1,245
Canada		2,233	2,496	+	263
Denmark		2,286	2,354	+	68
Ghana		1,408	2.055	+	647
Persia		1,184	1,992	+	808
Nigeria		807	1,980	+	1.173
South Africa		792	1,863	+	1.071
Other Countrie		32,625	37,534	+	4,909
Other Countrie	~				
Total	,	178,787	214,494	+	35,707

But less to Cyprus: Afro-Asian countries with which trade has been considerably expanded in 1960 include, in addition to Hong Kong, Ghana, Persia, Nigeria and South Africa, the following: Ethiopia (\$1,037,000, as against \$345,000 in 1959); Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika (\$789,000 as against \$580,000); Japan (\$1,593,000 as against \$1,317,000); the Malagasy Republic (\$723,000 as against \$317,000); Liberia (\$627,000 as against \$310,000), and the Philippine Republic (\$438,000 as against \$120,000). On the other hand, exports to Cyprus and Burma declined.

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#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 12
WEST CENTRAL ZIONIST SOCIETY. Shaftesbury
Hotel, Monmouth Street, W.C.2. Film Show.
Speakers: Mr. Meler Tzelnicker and Mr. I. J.
Miller, Mr. R. Bruner will preside, 2.30 p.m.

Monday, March 13
ZIONIST FEDERATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. CENTRAL LECTURE. Cora Hotel. Upper Woburn Place, W.C.I. "The Political and Economic Problems Facing Israel Today." Speaker: Mr. A. Miron, Minister of the Israel Embassy. Mr. Woolf Perry will preside. 8 p.m.

WANSTEAD & WOODFORD ZIONIST SOCIETY, Lecture on "The Events Leading Up to the Destruction of the Second Temple" by Mr. Harry Reuben, 57 Hollybush Hill, E.11 (by courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. J. Redman). 9 p.m.

## JPA-JNF NEWS

Prepared by JPA INF Public Relations Department, Furnival House, 14 High Holborn, W.C.I. Chancery 5986/7

#### ALLON ON THE PEACE-TIME TASKS OF ISRAEL

MIDLANDS RESPOND WELL TO APPEAL



Birmingham inaugural. Seated, from left: E. Alec Coleman, Mrs. G. Blumenthal, Yigal Allon, Mrs. Coleman, Ivan Shortt, J.P., Joseph Cohen. Standing: I. Baum, H. J. Hirschfield, Rev. S. Gold, C. Cornberg, G. Blumenthal (Chairman), Dr. N. Waldman, D. Zissman, M. Leek.

Former Brigadier Yigal Allon, who has surrendered his uniform for the academic gown of an Oxford college, took time off from his studies last week to address a large gathering in Birmingham, made up of local Jewish residents and visitors from Wolverhampton, about the peacetime objectives of the state of Israel.

He told his audience how Israel had been projected into a situation, which she welcomed, of being the one country where Jews could now be assured of entry when in need. The essential pre-condition, however, was economic strength and political stability. These largely went hand in hand.

The overall objective of the state must remain the achievement of a working arrangement with its neighbours for the common development of the Asian world. In this regard Israel had a difficult task in surmounting the many obstacles to political negotiation in the Middle East, and against the competing charms of Abdul Nasser.

Gerald Blumenthal, who presided, specially welcomed the Wolverhampton contingent which was combining with the Birmingham J.P.A. committee for the first time. Usually, this community organises a separate effort.

As a result of E. Alec Coleman's appeal, however, a sum of £16,000 was raised from Birmingham contributors, and

£1,000 from Wolverhampton. Both sums are the best-ever launching figures for these communities,

#### ILFORD WANTS 1,500 CONTRIBUTORS

The J.P.A. committee of Ilford is after 1,500 contributors this year. That is the number of Jewish families living in the area. How is it to get them?

Chairman S. Wiseman and honorary president J. Rose, speaking at the launching of the local campaign in Beehive Lane last week, asked the 150 people present each to conduct a canvassing drive on his own. If they each secured 10 donations, the job would be done. Last year Ilford raised £3,000, about half the community responding.

Guest speaker last week was Gershon Avner, and he was supported in the appeal by Trevor Chinn, young J.N.F. leader. New films of Israel were shown, and an initial contribution of £1,000 was secured. Good luck, Ilford!

#### SOUTHEND: £4,000

A small meeting of key-workers was given a briefing by Gershon Avner and Rosser Chinn at a gathering arranged by the Southend and District J.P.A. committee last week, with A. Feitelson in the Chair.

Mr. Avner spoke of jobs having to be artificially created for new immigrants—now coming in at the rate of 2,000 per month—who had not yet been trained for skilled occupations. He reiterated his plea made to other British audiences during the past fortnight for the means to take another stab at the ma'abara problem.

The J.N.F. president saw the immigration situation as the one to lie heaviest on the conscience of world Jewry. The rehabilitation of those living in conditions of despair, he said, and their transportation to Israel, required enormous funds. Other speakers: Cyril Smith, Rabbi P. Shebson and I. Freedman.

## MOUNTBATTEN FOR INDEPENDENCE DINNER

#### A TRIBUTE TO LADY EDWINA'S MEMORY

This year's Israel Independence Day Dinner, due to take place at the Dorchester in London on April 24, will have as guest of honour, in addition to the Israel Ambassador, Admiral of the Fleet the Rt. Hon. Earl Mountbatten, K.G., P.C.

The dinner will be linked to the memory of the late Countess Mountbatten, in whose name a Forest is being planted in Israel as the result of the initiative taken by some of her friends some months ago. During the evening, the Earl will be the recipient of a presentation marking the completion of the Edwina Mountbatten Forest, for which funds were subscribed by men and women of all faiths throughout the country and overseas.

Common platform: The Independence Day Dinner is one of the most significant of recently-inaugurated J.N.F. activities, and first took place in 1956. It is the one annual event that brings veteran Harry Sacher, one of the outstanding Zionist intellectuals of our time and in earlier years a key figure in the development of Jewish Palestine, to the Park Lane atmosphere of communal events. He and Mrs. Sacher will once again act as hosts.

While it must of course retain its function as a fund-raising occasion for Israel, the Independence Day Dinner more nearly conforms with the traditional "Pilgrims" Dinner of the Anglo-American alliance. For it serves as a platform to discuss Anglo-Israel relations in various fields: political, cultural and economic, and the guest-list comprises men and

#### JPA-JNF NEWS



The late Countess Mountbatten on a hospital visit in Singapore just before her death.

women of distinction in the parliamentary and intellectual life of this country.

Lady Edwina died in North Borneo while on a mission for the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Save the Children Fund, and was buried at sea. It was through the Save the Children Fund that she became acquainted with Youth Aliyah, the Jewish rescue organisation which has brought 100,000 children to a new life in Israel. She was a great administrator whose services for the welfare of Indian refugees as the last Vicereine has never been forgotten by the people of that

Through 40 years: Earl Mountbatten is the Chief of the Defence Staff and chairman of the Chiefs of Staff committee, who through 40 years rose in naval rank from midshipman (at Jutland, in 1916) to Admiral of the Fleet, thus following in the footsteps of his distinguished father. He was born at Windsor, a great-grandson of Queen Victoria, in 1900, but has not lived the sheltered life of a favoured royal son. From planning the grand strategy of the South-East Asian theatre of operations in World War II he participated as the last Viceroy of India in that great act of modern statesmanship, the transfer of power in August, 1947. His marriage to Edwina Ashley in 1922 brought into existence a unique partnership of two unaffected yet highly-privileged people who devoted their material wealth and genius for public service to the less-fortunate races of the world.

## NOW COMES THE CRUCIAL WEEK

This coming seven days is going to prove crucial for the current J.P.A. campaign, launched with such optimism a few weeks ago and now approaching the million pound mark.

For this period will tell us whether in fact there is a fighting chance of reaching the two million pound level. The various events reported in this issue indicate that the example set at the top has indeed percolated through to the district and provincial centres. The test comes now, with at least seven important gatherings, most of which will be addressed by a man who, since his return to this country on his J.P.A. engagement, has proved a spell-binder, Gershon Avner, and the beginning of the long-anticipated tour of Dr. Aryeh Nesher.

Dr. Nesher has already arrived in London and made his debut at a Diamond Trade reception on Wednesday. Now comes an important Hampstead meeting with Gershon Avner, to be followed on Sunday with the annual Food Trade Dinner.

This event, which takes place at the Savoy, will have Nathan Goldenberg to support Mr. Avner, and this is an appropriate occasion to give recognition to Mr. Goldenberg for his many-sided contribution to the annual effort, both in the trades and his own district of Wembley.

Other meetings on our immediate programme are Geulah, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Grimsby, Muswell Hill and New West End.

They are all capable of that extra



Arrived in London: Dr. Aryeh Nesher

effort which has characterised the campaign so far. They can show that the momentum of the 1961 campaign is being maintained, and that this year—the year of the "hidden needs" and the "two Israels"—Anglo-Jewry will do its duty.

#### LIVERPOOL'S WEEK-END

The Liverpool J.N.F. Functions Committee has held its first Blackpool Week-End, organised by Arthur Rubin and realising over £300. Sabbath morning services were conducted by Berl Rosenblatt and A. Myerson, and the other officiants being Myer Max and S. Solomon. Hyman Berman acted as Shamas.



At a reception to welcome Canadian J.N.F. workers stopping off in London after a study-tour of Israel, Rabbi Philip Shnairson, leader of the 80-strong group, with H. J. Osterley and Mr. and Mrs. Rosser Chinn. The Canadians utilised their brief stay here to visit synagogues and famous London Jewish landmarks.

#### JPA-JNF NEWS

#### WAR ON DESERT

"LAST PHASE"

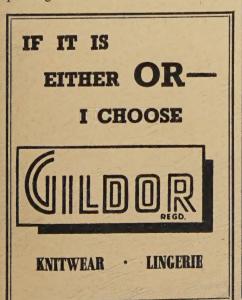
A 20-year plan for what he described as the "last phase" of Israel's war against the desert, involving development of the Negev and other areas was outlined in Washington last week by Jacob Tsur. world chairman of the Jewish National Fund, Mr. Tsur called for "the doubling of Israel's territory within her present borders". He was addressing the triennial national assembly of the J.N.F. of America. Five hundred delegates representing branches throughout the country were meeting in celebration of the Fund's sixtieth anniversary.

Mr. Tsur's plan involved reclamation of 625 million acres in the Negev, Galilee and Judea; the planting of 250 million trees; settlement of 100,000 families. The cost of the plan was estimated at I£500,000,000.

Plan adopted: The conference adopted the Tsur plan and pledged \$5,000,000 annually for twenty years towards the world goal of \$250,000,000.

Reviewing J.N.F. achievements over the last 60 years, American J.N.F. president Albert Schiff said that during that period the organisation throughout the world had raised over \$300,000,000. of this sum, \$217,000,000 was raised in the States.

J.N.F. was able through these funds to reclaim over one million acres in Israel on which are now located 600 agricultural settlements with a population of 500,000. Future plans includes the planting of 250 million trees in the Negev.



#### ST. JOHN'S WOOD J.N.F. **COMMISSION**

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YOU MUST BOOK AT ONCE! 

#### **OBITUARY** PHILIP ALEXANDER

Philip Alexander, for many years honorary secretary of Dollis Hill J.P.A. committee, was a colleague who will be sadly missed by all who worked with him. He set a fine example by taking on every onerous job in the campaign, and always with a ready smile.

#### PAUL SCHAECHTER

A particularly generous contributor to all Jewish causes, Paul Schaechter has died suddenly in Cannes. He was the brother of Max Schaechter, a founder and one-time chairman of the St. Johns Wood J.P.A. committee, and now one of its vice-presidents.

#### **DESSAU TRIBUTE**

The employees of the Burnham Manufacturing Co. (Nottingham) Ltd., of which the late Victor Dessau, whose death we reported last week, was Managing Director, have inscribed 46 trees in his name in the Barmitzvah Forest. This tribute comes from a largely non-Jewish staff as a mark of affection for their late employer.

#### HARRY SHINE HONOURED

On the occasion of his 65th birthday, Harry Shine, executive director of the Joint Palestine Appeal, has been inscribed in the Golden Book by the honorary officers and administrative committee of the Jewish National Fund.

#### THIS WEEK'S BEST BOXES

THIS WEEK'S BEST BOXES

E. LONDON: Dr. and Mrs. Steinberg, 320 Commercial Road, E.1, £16.0.0, Mrs. Samuels, 188 Langdale Mansions, E.1, £5.10.0, Dr. Mark Godfrey, 19
East India Dock Road, E.14, £5.10.0, Mrs. Whycer,
3 Ashtead Road, E.5, £4.17.6 Mr. David Berman, 59
Clapton Common, E.5, £4.10.0, Mr. S. Brenner, 38
Ashtead Road, E.5, £3.13.9, Mr. D. Elkan, 791
Commercial Road, E.14, £3.0,0, Mrs. A. Wise, 63 St.
Margarets Road, E.12, £2.7.1. Mr. H. Peters, 13 Clapton Common, E.5, £2.6.9, Mrs. Heller, 15 Everard
House, Boyd Street, E.1, £2.3.6. Mr. D. Michaels, 73
Bow Road, E.3, £2.3.0.

W. LONDON: Mr. Jack Shaw, 20 Cropthorne
Court, Maida Vale, W.9, £6.14.0. Dr. V. Dellal, 80
Brooke Green, W.6, £5.1.9, Mr. Leo Gersten, 505
Clive Court, Maida Vale, W.9, £5.0.0, Miss Taylor,
21 Sandringham Court, Maida Vale, W.9, £4.13.6
Mrs. Wolken, 123 Wellesley Court, Maida Vale, W.9, £3.10.0.
Mr. Ruben, 92 Rodney Court, Maida Vale,
W.9, £2.12.6, Mr. Mr. Galle, 9 Richmond
Way, W.12, £2.2.0. Mr. Galle, 9 Richmond
Way, W.12, £2.2.0. Mr. I. Weinrieb, The Lodge,
Flat 7, Kensington Park Gardens, W.11, £2.0.0. Notting Hill Commission, c/o Mrs. Shine, 15 Blomfield
Court, Maida Vale, W.9, £2.0.0. Mrs. Davis,
16 Cropthorne Court, Maida Vale, W.9, £2.0.0. Mrs.
Spiro, 29 Florence Court, Maida Vale, W.9, £2.0.0. Mrs.
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